

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Location: DNREC Lewes Field Office, 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes, DE 19958

Members Present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)
Mike Parkowski proxy for Pat Canzano (DSWA)
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Express of Delaware)
Dick Cecil (Del. Association of Counties)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
Kirsten Louis proxy for George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)
Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)
Dick Fleming (Delaware Nature Society)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)
Tom Houska (Waste Management, Inc.)
Basil Kollias (DE Chamber of Commerce)
Marianne Cinaglia proxy for Wally Kremer (DelEASI)
Julie Miro Wenger (Delaware Food Industry Council)
Kyle Sonnenberg (DE League of Local Governments)
Pat Todd (League of Women Voters)

Members Absent: Carrie Leishman (Restaurant Industry)

Non-Members Present:	Jim Short (DNREC)	Bob Ziegler (Allied Waste-RSG)
	Bill Miller (DNREC)	Don Long (DNREC)
	Shannon Splittorff (DNREC)	Tracy Sargent (DNREC)
	Nancy Marker (DNREC)	David Bart (Swift Demo & Recycling)
	Joe Maier (Econo Haul)	Glenn Kavanaugh (Republic Services)
	Bruce Georgov (IDS-WI)	
	Stan Mills (Rehoboth Beach)	

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35 P.M. He welcomed everyone and asked for each person to introduce themselves.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of March 23, 2011

The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Recycling Industry Reporting Requirements

The M&M committee worked with DSM Environmental, the consultant performing the 2010 Recycling Survey, to modify the recycling reporting form to reflect the Universal Recycling reporting requirement. As such, the 2010 voluntary survey will, so to speak, serve as a trial run for the mandatory reporting required starting in 2011.

Universal Recycling Grant and Loan Program Update

Shannon S. announced that the contracts are written and DNREC is working to get signatures from the awardees as soon as possible. Hopefully the contracts will be signed in the next week or so.

Following a question about the bottle fee collection related to the Delaware Recycling Fund, Shannon S. explained that \$150,600 was collected for March. We are seeing a decline in recycling fee reporting and number of filers. Jim S. added that the Fund only has one-third of what we should have expected. Julie M.W. offered to the Governor's Office to help review and reach out to non-filers. She and Mike F. said they would reach out to the Division of Revenue directly. Dick F. asked about the possibility of the Division of Revenue presenting the RPAC with a report. Marj C. suggested we hold off on that until we see if DNREC and the Division of Revenue can figure things out in the next couple weeks. Mike F. said wholesalers could certainly provide sales data. Julie M.W. suggested DNREC issue a press release explaining what is happening and that the State is looking to pursue enforcement. BJ said that by this far into the program everyone should be on board soon.

Outreach and Education

Bill M. announced that DNREC has held 3 universal recycling informational workshops and 3 more are scheduled to come. DNREC is also getting proposals for a logo and branding for outreach campaigns. They will be working with the Outreach and Education Subcommittee to review potential products.

Recycling Market Update

Paul B. and Mike P. said the recycling markets have stayed the same since last month. Prices are generally strong and stable.

Old /New Business

Pat T. said House Bill 29 has not been let out of committee and will remain there unless legislators change their minds. She also shared that Senate Bill 40 looks to remove tax credits for recycling. After significant discussion the following motion was passed, "the RPAC supports retention of tax credits for specific recycling activities that are now in law". There were nine votes in favor (BV, PB, DC, KD, DF, BK, MC, JMW, PT), four votes opposed (KS, TH, KL, MF), DNREC and DSWA abstained (MC, MP), and one member was absent (CL).

Jim S. mentioned the need to start the commercial recycling which is due in 2011. Mike P. suggests this task be done by the measurement committee with others welcome to participate. BJ encouraged any interested person to participate.

Dick C. asked if it would be appropriate for RPAC to respond to letters written to the editor from the public. Mike P. said that unless the letter was specifically addressed to the RPAC then he prefer they not answer. Pat felt the RPAC should not respond to stakeholder specific letters. BJ suggested circulating such letters to RPAC Members' attention.

BJ spoke about waste haulers increasing their prices due to recycling, tipping fees and energy costs. It was noted that some members have started collecting pricing data and there is quite a disparity in prices. Tom H. felt that RPAC should not be providing prices to individuals. Mike P. said that if people are unhappy with pricing, the issue is not different than any other service. There is a list of haulers on the DSWA website and folks should call around to get a better price. Mike P. would also like to add that in the different price ranges there is a wide variety and different services available. Pat T. questioned whether the drop-off sites would stay. Mike P. said the DSWA is tracking each site's use and may remove some down the road as necessary. But the program will still exist. Tom H. asked if the drop-off program went away would the DSWA costs be reduced and Mike P. said yes.

Tom H. said haulers and consumers would like to see a plan for how a reduction in the number of drop-off program sites will impact landfill tipping fees.

Future Meeting

The next meeting will be held on May 25, 2011 at the Department of Finance Building, 820 Silver Lake Blvd., Dover, DE 19907.

The meeting was adjourned around 3:20 P.M.